

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Openings

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:6.1 which provides the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with authority to declare a closed season on any and all species of fish found or existing in the waters of the state, and a resolution adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 6, 2010 which granted the Secretary the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, of inside waters to shrimping based upon biological and technical data, the Secretary hereby opens to all recreational and commercial fishing: that portion of state inside waters within Shrimp Management Zone 1 from the Mississippi/Louisiana state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River with the exception of the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described by the double rig line defined in R.S. 56:495.1 and the area south and east of Baptiste Collette; however the shrimp season shall remain closed within these waters until further notice and opens in that portion of state inside waters from Sandy Point Bay at 89 degrees 30 minutes 12 seconds west longitude eastward to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River with the exception of those inside waters east and south of Red Pass channel which runs from Venice to the Gulf of Mexico and that portion of state outside waters seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 from Sandy Point Bay at 89 degrees 30 minutes 12 seconds west longitude eastward to the mouth of Red Pass at 89 degrees 28 minutes 13.4 seconds west longitude and that portion of state outside waters seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line from Pointe au Fer island at 91 degrees 21 minutes 09 seconds west longitude eastward to 91 degrees 00 minutes and 00 seconds west longitude effective sunrise, Friday, May 15, 2010.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life. As a precaution, these areas had been closed to all recreational and commercial fishing by the Secretary on April 30, 2010 and May 10, 2010. Based upon the most recent information available, the Secretary has determined that this area can currently be re-opened.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary